

# The City of Greensboro Stream Corridor Reforestation Project



Presented by:  
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# Purpose:

To develop and implement a vegetation maintenance and management strategy for all publicly owned and maintained stream segments which, at a minimum:

1. Protects water quality and reduces stream bank erosion.
2. Promotes education & awareness of stream ecology.
3. Improves aquatic habitat and diversity.

# How we got here?

- 1994 - Stream Green of the Audubon Society requested various "No Mow" zones throughout City.
- 1999 - City Staff and community representatives developed a plan to create stream buffers along all publicly owned and actively maintained stream segments.
- 2000 - City Staff to have approximately 60 miles of stream banks reforested within the city limits during a 3 year period.



# How we got here (con't):

- 1999 - Storm Water Services (SWS) initiated a Stream Maintenance Guidelines Committee to develop ways of creating buffers along our streams.
- Committee members included:
  - ✓ Neighborhood representatives,
  - ✓ Business community,
  - ✓ Development community,
  - ✓ Environmental community,
  - ✓ Educational/Academic community,
  - ✓ SWS, Parks & Rec., and GDOT.

# Guidelines were created to:

- ✓ Protect, preserve and improve water quality conditions.
- ✓ Maintain consistency when dealing with community concerns.
- ✓ Complement existing efforts in:
  - ✦ Watershed master planning.
  - ✦ Recent ordinance changes (buffers required for new development).
  - ✦ Formal stream restoration projects.

# Desired Outcomes Include:

- ✓ Buffers will utilize a two-zoned approach.
  - ✦ Zone 1 - up to a 50' vegetated buffer (each side of creek).
  - ✦ Zone 2 - consisting of existing vegetation (turf grasses).
- ✓ Access points for:
  - ✦ Utility lines
  - ✦ Recreational activity
  - ✦ Periodic visual access
- ✓ Planting of trees/shrubs/flowers, etc.
  - ✦ to accelerate the natural "volunteer" growth.
  - ✦ a maintenance crew to maintain plantings.
- ✓ Buffer variations

# Buffer variations:

- ✓ In areas where public safety is of concern.
- ✓ In and around play grounds/athletic fields.
- ✓ Periodic access for recreation or visual observation.
- ✓ Buffer width may vary, depending on site limitations.
- ✓ Periodic access for utilities/easement maintenance.
- ✓ Around road crossings and foot bridges.



# Why Implement Buffers?

1. Streams have been degraded.





# Why Implement Buffers?

2. Stream's natural ability to function has been limited.



# Why Implement Buffers?

3. Streams are a valuable community resource and should be protected.





# Why Implement Buffers?

4. Stream buffers could provide an alternative to more expensive BMP's.





# How Will We Implement Buffers?

1. By changing the way our communities streams are regarded.

- ✓ Educational/Informational Campaign. Local streams are commonly regarded as drainage ditches - we're trying to change that perception.

2. By changing maintenance practices to more environmentally friendly methods.

- ✓ Alternative maintenance efforts - less heavy equipment and more hand crews along our stream banks.

3. By helping restore our streams natural ability to function.

- ✓ Planting trees along streams.
- ✓ Implementing vegetative buffers.

# When Will We Implement?

## Phase I/II - Fall 1999 to Spring 2001

- Initiation of public education campaign.
- Initiate committee to address citizen concerns.
- Begin planting trees along streams.
- Maintenance crew established.





# When Will We Implement?

## Phase III/IV - Spring 01 to Winter 03

- Continue public education campaign.
- Up to a 50' buffer established.
- Maintenance crew continues efforts.
- Finish planting trees along streams.





# Primary benefits of buffers:

- ✓ Improved water quality
- ✓ Increased diversity of aquatic life
- ✓ Decreased erosion



# Secondary benefits of buffers:

- ✓ Diverse recreation areas
- ✓ Filter air and noise pollution
- ✓ Improve diversity of wildlife habitat





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